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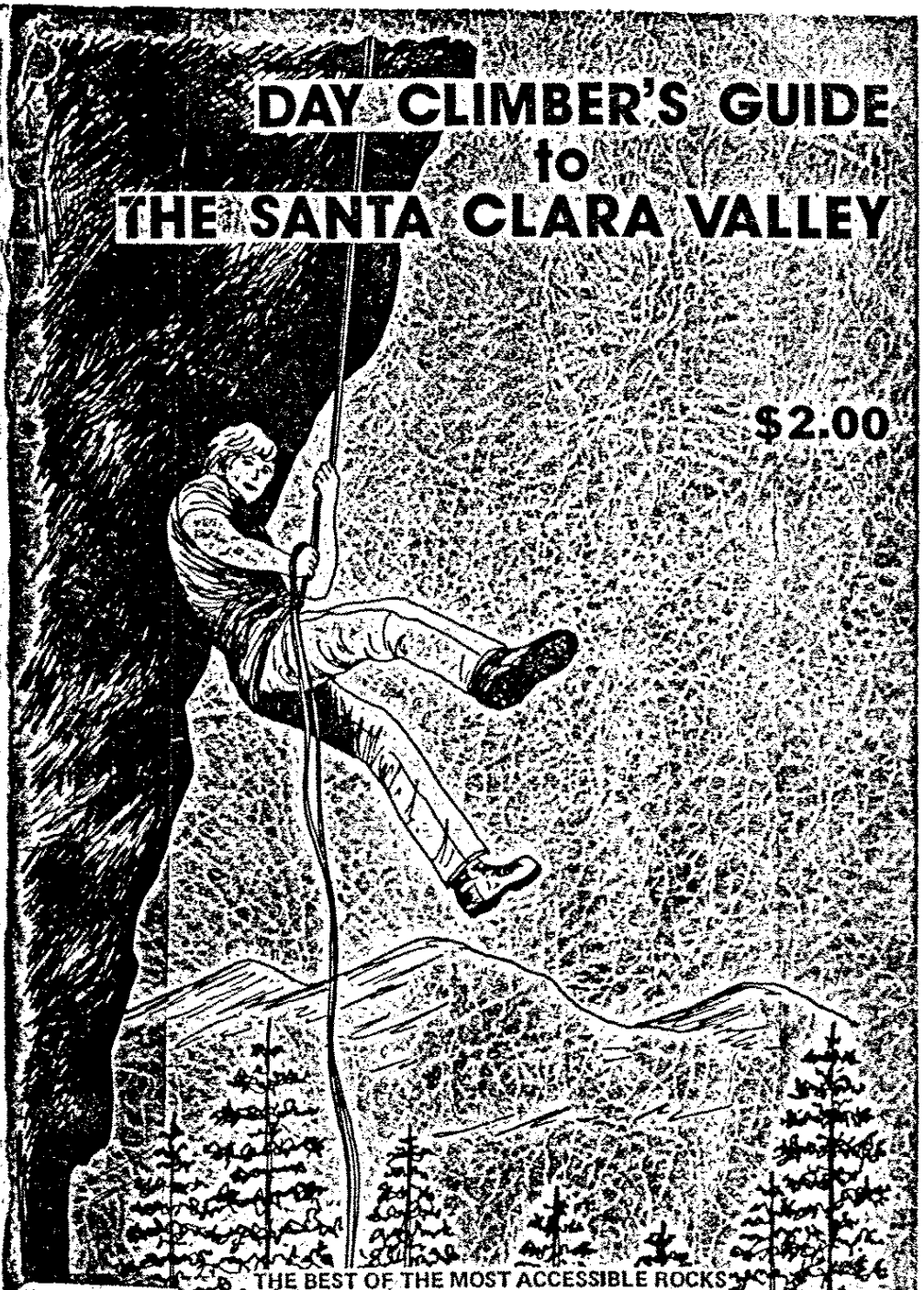

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THE BEST OF THE MOST ACCESSIBLE ROCKS AND CLIMBS OF CHALLENGE WITHIN 25 MILES OF SAN JOSE STATE UNIVERSITY

INCLUDING AN ANNOTATED MAP, PREFACE, REFERENCES, AND RESOURCES FOR THE LOCAL ROCK CLIMBER

Dedicated to Curt Daniels, who planned to climb this rock but went off to climb Europe instead.

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A climbing guide is not a substitute for instruction. The beginning rock climber is urged to take advantage of the instructional courses available.

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To the staff of the Morgan Hill Library:
Here's a complimentary copy in appreciation for your efforts in the special research projects in which I become involved. I've always felt all of you here become involved in my projects above and beyond mere duty.
My thanks...
Bill Craig

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-PREFACE-

The DAY CLIMBERS GUIDE is intended primarily for the Beginning Rock Climber who needs local climbs for practice. The guide should also prove useful to the Advanced Climber unable to go to the traditional climbing areas.

A centerfold map provides a quick reference to the location of the climbing areas. All climbs listed are within 25 miles from San Jose.

Each climbing area is described in depth. Car approach and parking suggestions, as well as the best foot approach are indicated. Each area is identified with specific routes and climbs. The presence of anchors--trees, bolts or boulders--is indicated for upper belay stances.

The traditional rating system was not used because of its confusion for the Beginning Climber. In its place, each climb is rated Advanced, Intermediate or Beginner. These ratings are only a loose guide since physical ability and natural skills are different with each person. In general, however, the ratings reflect difficulty of climb rather than the amount of exposure or danger present. If there is a great deal of exposure, this is indicated in the route description.

Climbing areas of enjoyment low on challenge and exposure have been included because the Beginner needs to develop skill more than he needs experience at high-risk climbing. Yet, the guide also lists climbs which should be attempted only by Advanced Climbers. These listings indicate artificial aid when appropriate. Some of the climbs and routes were arbitrarily named to give them an identity and where a name was well known, this name was retained. Facing the rock is the perspective used to describe the climbs.

All the climbs listed are on public lands. Some of the climbs will be new to long-time valley climbers. Some park officials have had little experience with climbers and may not be enthusiastic about your activities in their parks. They realize that your accidents are their problems. So, as you climb, take every opportunity to assure these officials of the legitimate nature of rock climbing as a safe public sport.

A great deal of respect for climbers will be generated if we all leave each climb cleaner than we found it. Don't litter.

Because all the climbs listed in this guide are at a low elevation, and some of them are quite isolated, rattlesnakes are a hazard. Be alert.

Climbers who use this guide are invited to send their comments to DAY CLIMBERS GUIDE, P.O. BOX 986, Morgan Hill, California, 95037. Any suggestions regarding climbs and routes not included will be especially helpful for the updated edition.

Happy climbing and see you on the rocks...

Bill Craig
Morgan Hill

-THOUGHTS FOR THE BEGINNING CLIMBER-

Each year a couple of would-be climbers grab the cheap rope off the clothesline and head for some rocks. And each year we hear of senseless injuries and deaths because of such a casual attitude toward climbing.

Rock Climbing has much to offer as indicated by the growth of the sport. But it does not offer instant entry to its enjoyments; it requires some homework and preparation.

The best way to learn the basics of rock climbing is from an experienced and competent climber. Some instruction is available in the Santa Clara Valley and is listed in the back of the guide.

In addition, watching other climbers will teach you a great deal. Ask questions. Castle Rock is the most popular area listed in this guide and on any weekend you will find many climbers of various skills to observe.

Once you have learned the basics--and you should have read BASIC ROCKCRAFT and ROPES, KNOTS AND SLINGS--you will be able to go out with a climbing partner and begin to develop your own skills and techniques. The local climbs in this guide are especially useful in this respect, for they allow the Beginner the chance to learn near home, without the high risks of the climbs found in Yosemite, Pinnacles, or elsewhere.

For the Beginner, a thorough understanding of Static Climbing techniques is essential. Static Climbing allows for the development of skills

with the greatest degree of safety because the climber is always belayed from above by his climbing partner. Any fall then, is only a matter of feet. Static Climbing requires the Belayer to find a safe means of gaining access to the top of the area to be climbed, i.e., a walk-on or easy up. The Belayer then anchors himself to a sturdy object--tree, bolt or boulder--so he cannot be pulled from his belay stance. From atop the climb, the Belayer tosses down the rope to the Climber, who ties in on it. With the Belayer anchored, he can take up the rope as the Climber moves up the rock.

Not all climbers are gracious and since the thrill-seeking climbers frown upon Static Climbing, you may have to endure some ribbing. But do not allow them to pressure you into placing your well-being in their strange game of chance. Climb at your own level and for your own reasons. Static Climbing is fundamental to the sport and is practiced by more people than any other style.

Once you've learned the basics you will want the minimum of equipment for your own local climbing. Before you rush out and buy all the paraphernalia sported by the Advanced Climbers, better to buy the essentials and then climb for a few months to discover what else you need.

Take the counsel of the sporting goods salesman with a grain of salt, especially if he is trying to sell you a lot of equipment. Buy only what you need. Selling used climbing equipment is difficult.

The equipment needed by the Beginner does not have to be extensive, complicated, or expensive. As a basic minimum for Static Climbing, the following equipment will suffice:

Rope: 75 feet of 9mm Perlon climbing rope is

sufficient for Static Climbing since beginner climbs seldom require the traditional 150 foot rope. The safety inherent in Static Climbing allows for the 9mm rope rather than the traditional 11mm. However, if money is not a consideration or you already know you will move into Advanced Climbing, then take the salesperson's advice and buy the 150 feel of 11mm Perlon rope.

Webbing: 50 feet of one inch tubular Nylon. Half of this will be used to fashion a Swami Belt for tying into the rope. The other half will be used to fashion slings which are necessary to anchor the Belayer. See ROPES, KNOTS AND SLINGS for details.

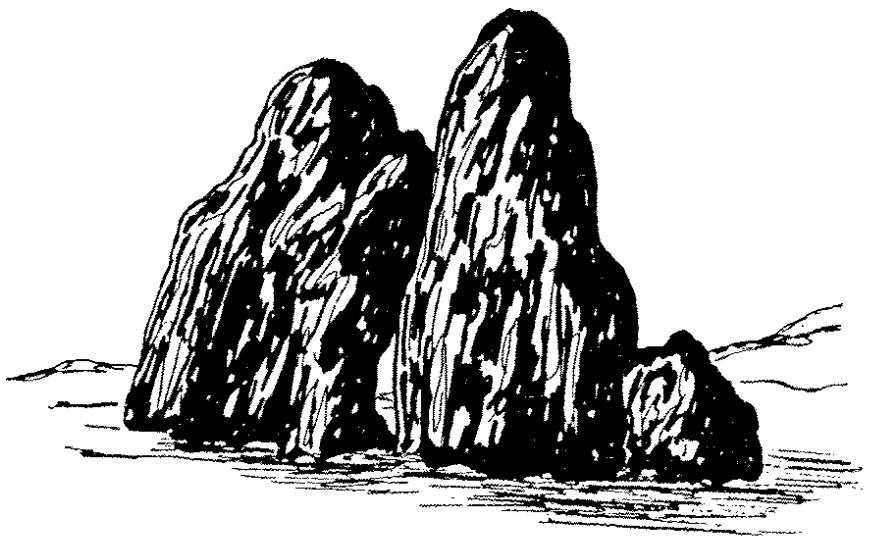
Hardware: Three Carabiners. The oval shape is less expensive, and for Static Climbing the extra strength of the D shaped Carabiner is unnecessary. You also need a Break Bar for reppelling. See BASIC ROCKCRAFT for details.

Footwear: Tennis shoes or lug-style hiking boots are sufficient.

With this basic equipment it is possible to spend many, many hours of enjoyment and satisfaction on the rocks. And the satisfactions are there.

Some say it is the rocks which make climbing such an enjoyable sport. Others say it's not really the rocks, but what takes place in the privacy of the climber's mind. It's great in any case.

- THE CLIMBS -



-ADAMS PICNIC SITE-

This small county park, located Southwest of Morgan Hill, has upper and lower climbing rocks ideally suited for the Beginner.

Take 101 South to a Right on Tennant Road in Morgan Hill. Then a Left on Monterey Highway to a Right on County Road G8--the Watsonville Road. Drive for a few miles, passing Uvas Road and the Bonesio Winery. Look for a rock on your right, along with picnic tables. If you drive over a new wide bridge, you have just passed the area. The rock on the right is the top and backside of the Upper Rock.

UPPER ROCK

The backside of the Upper Rock provides some bouldering. Moving to the bottom of the rock the following routes are notable:

Water Chute: Facing the rock at the bottom, this is an obvious route which begins to the left of the rock and angles up and left. Beginner.

Traverse Variation: This begins halfway up the Water Chute and is a right traverse to a small face, then on up the ridge of the rock. Beginner.

Mantle Variation: This begins where the Water Chute route ends and consists of a short right traverse to a small mantle, then on up the ridge of the rock. Beginner.

The Spine: This begins to the right of Water Chute where the rock juts out the furthest. In essence, this route follows the spine of the rock to the top. Difficult to begin. Intermediate to Beginner.

The Face: This route is around the corner to the right from The Spine. Climb up the face, with its slight overhang, then on up the ridge of the rock. Intermediate.

Note: With your back to the rock, the Lower Rock is located to your left and down. The entire area has excellent bouldering. Moving left along the path you will eventually come to the Lower Rock with its right side toward you and the backside over the water in the creek.

LOWER ROCK

This rock offers more challenge than the Upper Rock and has routes from Advanced to Beginner.

The most notable are:

Ken's First: While some of the right side of the rock is moss covered, there is an enjoyable climb consisting of a series of mantles from ledge to ledge to gain the top. Obvious route. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Overhang Traverse: This begins from the last ledge prior to gaining the summit on Ken's First. The climber can move under the overhang, around the rock to the right and into a small cave with a jutting finger-like rock. You are out over the water here and under a very difficult overhang and smooth face to the top. Aid (pitons, etriers, etc.). Exposed. Advanced.

Friction Face: Moving left around the rock reveals the front and a climb up the face. Exposed. Intermediate.

Lunar Face: The left side of the rock consists of small caves and overhangs. This entire side is pock-marked rock. Especially good for Beginners learning climbing and reppelling. Can anchor on boulders. Beginner.

Little Climb: This is located on a rock further up the trail and consists of a short friction climb up the backside. Beginner.

> Each atom of that stone, each mineral flake of that night-filled mountain, in itself forms a world. The struggle itself toward the heights is enough to fill a man's heart.
>
> Albert Camus

-ALUM ROCK CITY PARK-

This San Jose City Park is located in the Eastern foothills. From 101 take Alum Rock Avenue East which deadends at the park entrance.

In the park at the bottom of the steep hill, turn left and park in the large parking area. Do not drive under the stone bridge.

From this parking area you will be able to see the three climbing areas. Directly above the stone bridge is Alum Rock. To the left of Alum Rock is the smaller Bad Vibes Rock. Further left is Eagle Rock, the most popular of the three.

An access road across from the parking area leads up through a series of switchbacks below Eagle Rock and above Bad Vibes Rock and Alum Rock.

For Eagle Rock, take a short trail off the access road to the talus which leads directly up to the base of the rock. For Bad Vibes Rock and Alum Rock you must hike down to them.

EAGLE ROCK

This is a most enjoyable climbing area which has challenges for Advanced to Beginner. Eagle Rock proper is the primary climbing area, yet facing the rock at the bottom will reveal some excellent climbs on the cliffs to the left. Beginning at the extreme left of these cliff faces, the climbs are:

The Fin: This is a rock formation which juts out from the cliff face and can be climbed on either side. The right side is more difficult to start. The Fin is a climb of some complexity with a mantle at its climax. Exposed. Intermediate.

Hidden Crack: To the right of The Fin, this is a climb of little exposure. The route consists of a crack and series of ledges which lead to the top at a left angle. The route is hidden behind the trees and foliage. Beginner.

Face of a Thousand Moves: A 40 foot face is located at the bottom of Hidden Crack. It's a very difficult climb of slow deliberate moves. The left side of the face is climbable. The rest of the face is unknown. Exposed. Advanced.

Feeling Good Overhang: This is located in the corner where Eagle Rock proper joins the cliffs. A chockstone rests above a small book. This is really a series of complicated moves more than a climb, for it requires extended gross body moves to achieve the proper position to manage the final mantle. Advanced to Intermediate.

Rick's Chute: More a challenge of complicated moves than a climb. This is located to the right of painted graffiti, Rick. It is a steep, polished water chute. To climb it, one must swing out onto the chute and use an underhand cling on your left to achieve a sort of lie-back to work up the chute. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Chockstone Chute: This is the most popular route on the rock. It runs about 250 feet and includes a multitude of climbing challenges. The route begins at the point where Eagle Rock juts out furthest at its base. Following the water chute, climb up towards the large chockstone, moving under and out at the top. Past the chockstone, it is possible to climb onto the top of the rock by

moving between a tree and a slanted rock face (Fingertips, described below). This takes you out the back of the rock where the easy backside can be climbed to the summit. Beginners may want a belay past the chockstone. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

The Stripper: This climb begins above the chockstone and consists of a jam crack which starts very wide and narrows at the top to such an extent that the rock pulls at the climbers clothes. Exposed. If climbed from the inside, Intermediate. If climbed outside, Advanced.

Staircase: A continuation of The Stripper, this route leads up the side of Eagle Rock proper and is a series of small footholds to the summit. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Fingertips: This face climb is characterized by the many fingertip holds required to complete it. This face is the outside rock which makes up The Stripper. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Gully Route: Facing chockstone chute this route follows a water runoff to the right and around the corner. This long route ends at the base of the summit; the top can be reached by the easy backside. Exposed. Beginner.

Small Book: Located 30 feet up the Gully Route, and to the left, this climb consists of a small book with a narrow jamming crack on the right. The climb ends on a wide ledge, moving up and left from this ledge will lead the climber atop the main Chockstone Chute. Exposed. Intermediate.

Toe-Jam Mantle: Above Small Book and to its right this is a straight forward foot jamming crack which climaxes in a difficult mantle. Exposed. Intermediate.

Curt's Solo: This climb begins off the Gully Route next to a large slanted ledge which is the climax of Toe-Jam Mantle, around the corner. There are two difficult overhangs which give way to a steep face requiring friction to the summit. Exposed. Advanced.

Over Exposure: This is the only bolted route in the park; it begins above and to the left of Toe-Jam Mantle. The climb requires the use of etriers. One bolt is missing and all are old (placement date unknown). The bolts play out to very difficult friction/fingertip climbing to the summit. Aid. Exposed. Advanced.

Comments: Once atop the climbing area, a fast means to the bottom is to face away from the rock and move left on the meadow, to discover a trail which winds back to the bottom of the cliffs. Eagle Rock is well bolted for anchoring. Boulders at the top of the cliffs provide good anchors. The backside of Eagle Rock affords excellent reppelling training. The front of Eagle Rock affords advanced reppells with some free reppelling. Very good bouldering in the area.

BAD VIBES ROCK

This is located between Eagle Rock and Alum Rock. There is no anchor on the flat, wide top. This rock consists mainly of a very large overhang which leads to a flat smooth face. The front and right sides have likely not been climbed. There is an enjoyable climb up the left ridge of the rock. Beginner.

ALUM ROCK

From the parking area this rock promises much, but is made up of dirt and boulders. Most of the rock portions are rotten and flake easily. There are, however, three notable climbs:

The Mess: This is located at the summit of the rock and behind it, and consists of a number of jumbled boulders which allow opposition climbing and bouldering. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Forearm Knot: On the ground and facing the back of the rock, move to your left and around the corner. You will come to a difficult face with a crack system starting at the bottom and running up at a right angle, eventually going straight up the face to end near a tree on a narrow ledge. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Little Climb: This is located to the left of Forearm Knot and begins under a tree. It is an obvious water chute which comes out on a ledge. If the ledge is followed to the right it will end at the belay stance for the Forearm Knot. Passing the ledge, the climb can be continued up the face to the summit. Exposed. Beginner.

Speaking of the hazards of falling from heights greater than fifty feet seems somehow academic.

Sabastian Tombs

-CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK-

This overnight, walk-in, primitive park contains the most popular climbing in the Santa Clara Valley area.

From San Jose, take Freeway 17 to a Right on Saratoga - Los Gatos Blvd (County Road G9). Follow this to the town of Saratoga, make a left (staying on G9) and follow the road up into the Santa Cruz mountains. Take a left at the stop sign at Summit Road. Castle Rock State Park is a few miles up on the right.

There are two parking areas, depending on destination in the park. For the overnight camping and the Park Headquarters, park by the Los Gatos Gun Club entrance on the right and walk the one mile access road beyond the locked gate. For the climbing area continue on Summit Road to the large parking lot on the right. From the parking lot, a trail leads to an access road; up this road to the right is located the Castle Rock and other climbs. In the parking area with your back to the road this trail begins to your left. Warning: keep valuables with you, lock your vehicles. This isolated area is seldom patrolled.

THE CAMPING AREA

While this area is mainly a jumping-off place for the parks excellent hiking trails (you can hike to Big Basin State Park), there is some bouldering near the campsites at Klystrom Falls.

To locate Klystrom Falls, face the Rangers Station and move left along the access road, past the meadow, to the lower camping area. Proceed to the

end of the camping area and when you approach the toilet, take the path to your extreme left, which follows a creek and moves uphill.

Eventually you will come to Klystrom Falls, which has many climbs for Beginners and much bouldering potential.

A trail leads from the camping area to the Castle Rock climbing area. A map is available from the Ranger.

THE CASTLE ROCK CLIMBING AREA

This climbing area is best known for Castle Rock proper and on any weekend more climbers will be found here than at the other local climbing areas. In addition to the Castle Rock, there are a multitude of other rocks in the area.

THE CASTLE ROCK

Approaching this rock from the access road reveals the front which is characterized by three caves, each atop the other.

The anchor for Castle Rock consists of a large steel pipe which can work effectively in most directions around the rock. This is a communal anchor and should be shared. Never remove a rope from the anchor without the owners consent!

Castle Rock has no walk-on, and because of this it may not be a good rock for Beginners using Static Climbing techniques. The rock is noted for the following climbs:

Access Route: This is the route used to gain the summit of the rock. By facing the front of the rock you will note a narrow foot jamming crack to the left of the caves. By using jamming techniques, you can gain a wide ledge which

you follow up and around the rock. You come to a series of steps on the backside which lead up to a slanted face. This face can be mantled to gain access to the slanted top of the rock and the anchor. Exposed. Intermediate.

The Caves Route: This is a climb which moves back and forth across the tops of the caves as the climber moves up the rock. It can be started eight feet up the Access Route by traversing right to the top of the first cave. From there, follow the ridge left and up. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

The Caves Variation: Instead of using the Access Route to start, it is possible to do a short overhang located to the extreme right of the lowest cave. From there, do the ridge up the left side of the cave to gain access to its top. Finish off as in the Cave Route. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Fallout Crack: This climb begins between two large trees to the right of the caves. Very difficult jam crack because it is too large for hand jams and too small for body jams. Using opposition, the climb ends atop a flat area with a large boulder on it. Exposed. Advanced.

The Blond Ghost Move: This is a continuation of Fallout Crack and is a very difficult gymnastic move. From atop the boulder, it is possible to climb the smooth face to gain the summit. Some climbers mantle straight up the face by using an underhand cling hold to the front. Others swing into a shallow bucket to the left, then carefully reach one arm high above to get a grip on a solid hold made by the lip of a bucket. Then extend the other arm and a mantle to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

The Bench: This begins at the apex of the corner

of the rock to the right of Fallout Crack. Climb up the column (like a brace in the cave) to the slanted bench atop. With friction proceed across this bench, and around the corner of the upper face. You will be at the flat area with the boulder, where Fallout Crack ends. Exposed. Advanced.

Bolt Route: Move from the Bench to the right and backside of the rock. This route begins by a twisted tree stump. The bolts are kept in good repair; this is a good climb to learn the use of etriers. Once over the lip of the overhang, and off the bolts, move to the left to try The Blond Ghost Move. From where the bolts stop you can also climb up to a ledge below a slanted face. The face can be done with friction to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: Near the Blond Ghost Move there is an upper bolt route. The top bolt is missing, which causes some difficulty in finishing the climb.

Chockstone Crack: Moving to the right past the large cave, this is an obvious crack with a chockstone/overhang at the top. Taking the climb straight up and over the chockstone, Exposed and Advanced.

Chockstone Variation One: Below the chockstone you can traverse left on a ledge to a vertical foot jamming crack which comes out below the slanted face. Friction from there to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Chockstone Variation Two: You can traverse left on the ledge to a difficult face which then allows you to swing into a small bucket above the large cave. A mantle out of the bucket leads to the slanted face. Friction to summit. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: There are other advanced climbs and upper variations on this rock. Only the most obvious have been listed. This rock should not be climbed by the Beginner, unless accompanied with a more advanced partner.

While Castle Rock is the primary rock, there are a multitude of other climbs and routes in the area.

TREE ROCK

This is a small and enjoyable rock near Castle Rock. Facing the access road, this rock is located to the right by the garbage cans and behind two small boulders. The rock is characterized by the large tree growing at its summit and which can be used as an anchor. The following climbs are notable:

Penny's Route: This is located by facing Tree Rock from behind the second boulder. The route is characterized by a knob on the right and a finger jam crack upper left. This is a difficult gymnastic/friction climb. Intermediate.

Corner Overhang: This is located to the right of Penny's Route and is a climb up the corner ridge of the rock. Difficult mantle at the top. Advanced.

The Slab: Around the corner to the right, this is an obvious easy up to the top. Beginner.

Corner Humps: Moving on to the right, this is located at the first corner of the backside of the rock. The route consists of a series of bulges up the ridge of the corner. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Overhang Face: This is to the right of Corner Humps and is the backside of the rock. It is characterized by a few caves. This is a wide climbing area of

no obvious routes. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Knobby Face: This is around the corner to the right and consists of a short face climb with many knobby protrusions. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Note: The first two boulders and other places on Tree Rock provide good bouldering.

KATHY'S ROCK

This is a small rock which provides some good training climbs. It is located on the right, further down the access road about 20 feet. The notable climbs on Kathy's Rock are:

Easy Up: This route is located on the right side and consists of a low angle face with steps to the top. Beginner.

Flat Nose: A certain perspective in the front of the rock suggests a Boxer's broken nose. To its right is a crack which can be foot jammed to the top. Difficult to begin. Intermediate.

Bowl Face: Located around the corner to the left of Flat Nose, characterized by a shallow bowl in the upper face. The climb begins up a crack which leads to a small resting ledge, continues up the face past the bowl to a narrow crack and then a final mantle to the top. Exposed. Intermediate.

Lower Mantle: This difficult to begin mantle is located to the left, around the corner. Once the mantle is achieved, then on up the chute, past the bowl and mantle at the top. Exposed. Intermediate.

Sandee's Frustration: This route is located

to the left of The Lower Mantle on the backside of the rock. The climb begins to the right of the tree, and consists of a difficult route of some finger holds and foot friction work. The route then goes up and left to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: Behind Kathy's Rock is a climbing area known as The Jumbles, consisting of four separate rocks. Facing the Jumbles, Ridge Rock is directly behind Kathy's Rock and before you. Cave Rock is on the left. The Hump is on the Right. Wave Rock is beyond the others.

RIDGE ROCK

This is a small rock with a little ridge protrusion aimed at the back of Kathy's Rock. The notable climbs are:

Easy Up: A short friction climb to the left of the ridge protrusion. Beginner.

Small Face: Located to the right of the ridge and consisting of very small holds and lots of friction. Gymnastic moves to the top. Advanced.

Caves Overhang: At the backside of the rock and characterized by some small caves. No obvious routes. Intermediate.

CAVE ROCK

To the left of Ridge Rock is this larger rock, identified by the cave which passes through the bottom of the rock to the backside. This rock has a bad belay stance. The notable climbs are:

Ledge Traverse: The beginning of this short climb is located where Ridge Rock and Cave Rock are the closest to each other. The wide ledge beginning above the cave entrance can be traversed up and

around the rock to the right to gain access to the top. To get onto the ledge, opposition may be used, with Ridge Rock as an assist. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Holy Face: Passing through the cave to the backside reveals a face climb. Holds can be used to move right and up to the top. Begin to the right and above the cave exit. Exposed. Beginner.

The Lip Crack: Facing the front of Cave Rock, move left around the corner to a crack system which moves up to the top. The interior of the crack has lip-like formations for finger jams. Intermediate to Beginner.

THE HUMP

This rock is located to the right of Ridge Rock. A good belay stance is possible by wedging into the bucket at the top. The notable climbs are:

The Edge: It is the edge of the rock which faces the backside of Kathy's Rock. A route consisting of little cracks and small knobbys. A difficult gymnastic-type climb. Advanced to Intermediate.

Easy Up: A route to the left of The Edge and near the backside of Ridge Rock. The climb consists of easy steps to the top. Beginner.

Pat's Climb: To the right of The Edge and near the backside is this difficult face climb, identified by a basketball size hole in the face. Gymnastic moves. Intermediate.

Cliff's Steps: Downhill to the backside reveals this long, obvious and enjoyable route. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

WAVE ROCK

Located by moving between Ridge Rock and Cave Rock and identified by the overhang which looks like an ocean wave crashing. This rock has a good belay stance. The notable climbs are:

Up The Curl: This is a friction climb on a slanted face to a mantle of the cresting wave. Beginner.

Crack Climb: On the backside of Wave Rock, beginning above and to the left of the cave of Cave Rock. The crack ends in an easy mantle. Exposed. Intermediate.

Note: There are two more rocks along the path downhill to the right. The first is a round rock called The Mound Rock. Further on is a real challenge for the Advanced climbers called Flat Head Peak.

THE MOUND ROCK

This rounded rock has two obvious climbs. The belay stance at the top is good.

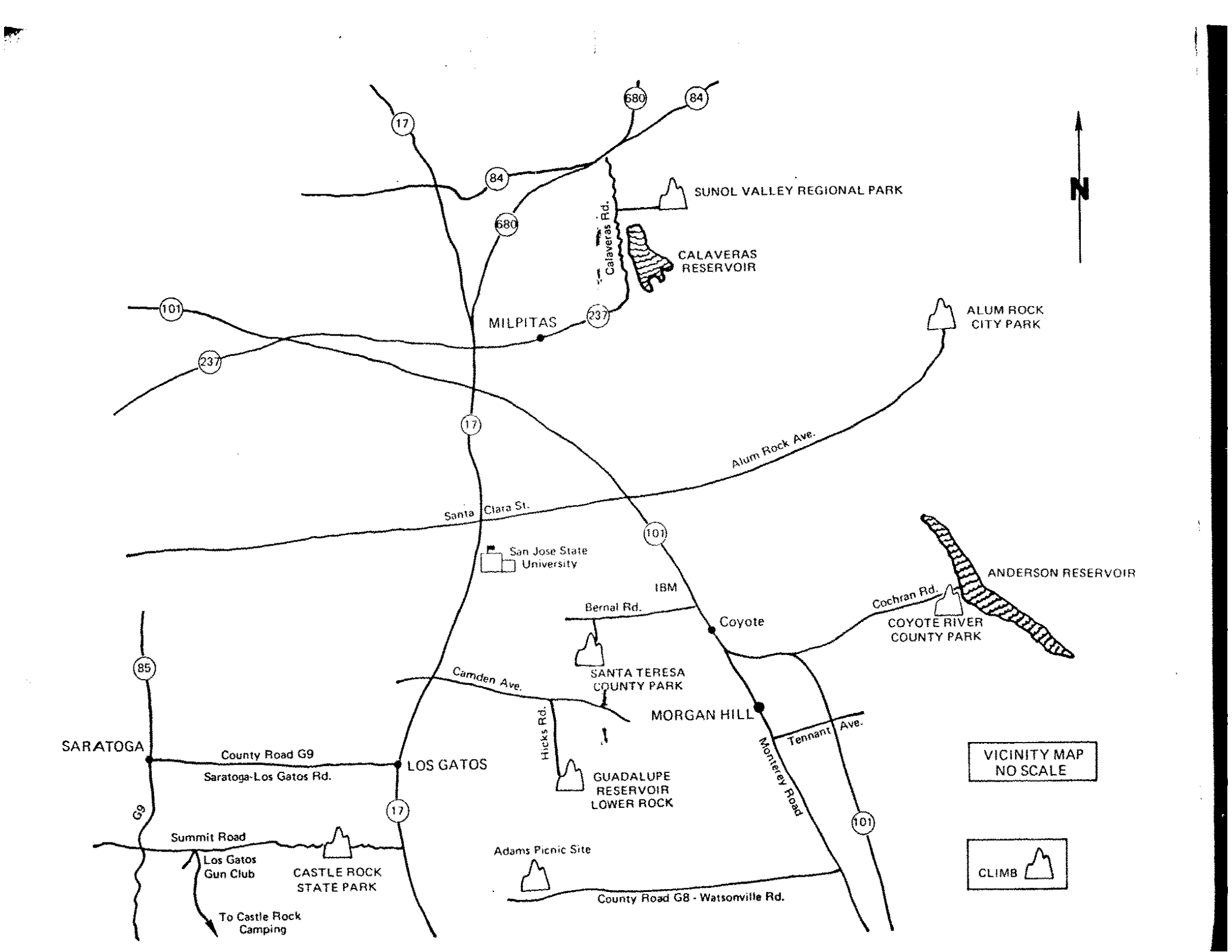
Easy Up: A straight forward climb to the left and by a large tree. Beginner.

Friction Face: Located on the right side of the rock, is a very difficult face of few holds. Mainly friction and gymnastic moves. Advanced.

FLAT HEAD PEAK

By following the path from The Mound Rock downward and to the right, you will come to this excellent peak. It is bolted and has no easy up. The notable climbs are:

Hard Work: This is a crack system which is obvious from the path approach. The crack moves up and to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SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK
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Monterey Road
G9
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Summit Road
Los Gatos Gun Club
CASTLE ROCK STATE PARK
Adams Picnic Site
To Castle Rock Camping
County Road G8 - Watsonville Rd.
N
VICINITY MAP
NO SCALE
CLIMB

the right, ending below the summit and requiring a mantle to gain access to the small flat area at the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Harold's Crack: Located around the corner to the right of Hard Work, is a near vertical crack of great complexity. Exposed. Advanced.

Harder Than It Looks: Situated around the rock to the right, characterized by the many little holes on the face. The route begins to the left of the small cave. It can also be started from inside the cave by moving out and left up the face. This is the easiest route to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: By returning to the access road and moving away from The Castle Rock, the Lower Rocks climbing area can be located. Lower Rocks is down the access road about 30 feet beyond the toilet and then downhill on an obvious path to the right. This path will bring you to the backside and top of the climbing area. Facing the backside, the notable climbs are:

The Boulders: Follow the path into the interior of these rocks, which are the upper portions of the lower climbs. The belay stances for the lower climbs are located in this area. The Boulders have some climbs for Beginners and much bouldering potential.

Note: Retrace your path outside the Boulders and begin to down-climb to the right, around the rocks. This side is moss covered and there are few climbs here. However, about 30 feet to the right stands Saddle Rock.

SADDLE ROCK

Characterized by the two humps at the top, this rock has no easy-up and is not bolted. There are

many routes. Getting off this rock without down-climbing can be done with the aid of a nearby, sturdy tree limb. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: Continuing on down the right side of Lower Rocks and around to the front will reveal these notable climbs:

Russ's Chute: This is a very challenging, long climb which begins as a difficult face. Then goes to finger jamming up a crack, and finally moves inside a wide body jam crack to the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Super Crack: Located to the right and around the corner from Russ's Chute. This long route begins above the second cave. A crack system moves across the face in a ledge-like horizontal manner, then widens for foot jamming toward the top while moving into a vertical direction. Exposed. Advanced.

Lower Crack: Long climb directly below Super Crack, consisting of a wide, water chute where two large rock faces meet. The steep angle, and the flaired out nature of the crack, suggests chimney oppositions techniques. Major obstacle is a chockstone/overhang at the end of the climb. Exposed. Intermediate.

The Sponge: The face to the right of Lower Crack, covered with small holes and caves. A very broad climbing area of no distinct routes. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Note: The Castle Rock climbing area has unlimited bouldering in addition to the routes and climbs listed.

-COYOTE RIVER PARK (ANDERSON LAKE)-

This county park is located in the valley foothills near Morgan Hill. The climbing provides many excellent outings of challenge for Advanced to Beginner.

From San Jose, take 101 South, through the small town of Coyote. Continue to the outskirts of Morgan Hill, make a left on Cochran Road to the park. Continue past the park, veering to the right and then make a left at the first possible road. This is the access road to the top of the Anderson Dam. At the top, turn left and proceed across the Dam Head, parking by the Spillway.

From this parking area, facing the water, the Upper Rocks are to your left.

The foot approach is dependent on the water level. If the water is up to the Spillway, you must cross the Spillway and make your way around the side of the hill to the rocks. There is no trail. If the water level is low, an obvious trail leads along the shoreline to the rocks.

The Upper Rocks is actually an entire hill which has been eroded, leaving pock-marked rocks and strange formations, along with very deep canyons of dirt and rock. Regardless of your approach, Upper Rocks is noted for four distinct climbing areas: The Balconies; The Face Area; The Cliffs; and Hidden Valley.

THE BALCONIES

The Balconies are distinct as they rise straight up before you and are characterized by the ex-

treme overhangs at their tops. You can scramble up the hillside to them, or continue on and climb a slanted face where The Balconies meet The Face Area by the waters edge.

There are no distinct routes. If the overhangs are attempted, Exposed and Advanced. The lower areas are climbed for friction practice. Intermediate to Beginner.

THE FACE AREA

Around the corner to the right of The Balconies, where the rock meets the water. The water level will determine if these climbs are available. This area is noted for the following climbs:

The Cave Crack: This climb begins inside the small cave in the middle of the rock face. First climb the rock which sits in the cave opening. Once atop this rock, a wide crack is accessible above you. The crack narrows as it moves outside the cave and up the bulging face. Exposed. Advanced.

Long Day: A long face climb to the left of The Cave Crack, characterized by very slow and intricate moves due to the lack of good holds. There is no distinct route. Exposed. Advanced.

Randy's Climb: Another long face climb to the right of The Cave Crack, with occassional ledges and flakes. Exposed. Advanced.

Comments: The climbs on The Face Area demand upper belays. These can be set up using a sturdy tree above the climbing area as an anchor. The easiest route to the belay stance is to proceed along the front of the face, past the climbs, around the corner and then begin climbing up and to the left. This is an exposed climb, but not too difficult. If the water level is too high for this

approach, you must move left past The Balconies to eventually gain access to the top of the hill. Then make your way back and down to the front. There are two trees for anchoring. The lowest is better.

THE CLIFFS

An extensive climbing area located by facing The Balconies and moving left along the outside of the hill. The Cliffs is a climbing area of no distinct routes, but affords a great many faces and cracks. Extremely good for bouldering. Intermediate to Beginner.

HIDDEN VALLEY

Hidden Valley is on the other side of the hill from The Cliffs. By climbing above The Cliffs you will come upon the series of deep canyons which run throughout the hill. Some of the edges of these dirt and rock canyons are overhangs and most of the canyons are a hundred or more feet deep, so care should be taken. These canyons create a natural barrier for a straight forward approach to Hidden Valley. There are three methods of gaining access to Hidden Valley:

Number One: Body jam a wide crack on the left end of the Cliffs to gain access to the canyon. This deep canyon can be followed to the left and will emerge into Hidden Valley.

Number Two: By starting from atop The Balconies make your way toward the other side of the hill, eventually coming out above Hidden Valley. This route requires some canyon jumping and downclimbing.

Number Three: If the water level is low enough for access to the trail, follow the trail around

The Face Area. Before hiking toward the right around a small water inlet, climb up the hillside into Hidden Valley. You should continue to look left and behind you as you hike or you may miss it.

Once in Hidden Valley, with your back to the water, these are the notable climbs:

The Cube: A large square-shaped rock which has climbs of real enjoyment. It has a walk-on up the back, but a bad belay stance. Intermediate to Beginner.

Little Matterhorn: An actual 'peak' rock which has no anchor and is very exposed. It is the most distinctive feature in Hidden Valley and is approached by scrambling up the hill on the left, then across a narrow ledge to a resting area below the summit. From there, climb straight up to the peak. Advanced. The peak can also be reached by traversing left on a ledge around the rock and then up a crack. Intermediate.

Hard Times: Using the resting area below the peak as a belay stance, this is a face climb below and on the water side of the rock. Exposed. Advanced.

Harder Times: This face climb begins on the side of Little Matterhorn away from the water, and is part of the outlet for the canyon approach to Hidden Valley. A good belay stance is a problem, for the resting area will not allow a straight line to the climber, and the peak has no anchor. Slings and/or ropes could be used to devise an anchor on the peak. This climb is long and very exposed. Advanced.

Note: The multitude of canyons which run through the hill are fun to explore and some unusual climbing can be found. The canyons create an eerie feeling somewhat like taking a journey to the center

of the Earth.

LOWER ROCKS

Drive from the Spillway down the exit road and park in the large parking area by a chain-link fence. Follow the fence to an open, flat, rocky area. To your right will be a small year-round stream which is the source of a waterfall that ends in a natural pool below. This approach places you above the waterfall and the climbs. To get to the bottom of the rocks, face the pool, move left and begin down-climbing. Some of this down-climbing is Intermediate.

You can also drive on to the picnic area at the bottom of the hill and climb upwards to the base of the rocks.

Once at the bottom, and facing the falls, it will be obvious that there are few distinct routes, but many climbs possible. The notable climbs are:

Waterfall Route: Begin to the right of the falls and climb on many ledges to the top. Exposed. Intermediate.

The Humps: A route is located about 20 feet to the right of the Waterfall Route, and consisting of a series of bulging faces. No distinct route, and the Beginner can work around the humps. If done straight up, Exposed and Intermediate.

Big Steps: A climb to the left of The waterfall which is mostly dirt and loose rock for the first 30 feet. From there a very enjoyable climb as you move from ledge to ledge and eventually to the top. Exposed. Intermediate.

Little Faces: Moving across the rock plateau away from the waterfall, you will come to the top of some mini-cliffs. Exposed. Beginner.

Note: The entire area is especially good for Beginners and the bouldering potential is great.

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-GUADALUPE RESERVOIR-

This reservoir is located West of Los Gatos in the foothills of the coastal range. Take Freeway 17 toward Los Gatos to the Camden Avenue exit. Bear left and follow Camden to a Right on Hicks Road which winds its way up to the reservoir along the year-round Guadalupe Creek.

Guadalupe Reservoir has two popular climbing areas but one is located on private property and therefore cannot be listed in this guide. To arrive at the climbing area on public land, continue past the Dam Head until you see the top of Lower Guadalupe Rock on your left and down in the ravine. Park in the wide areas on the left.

Lower Guadalupe Rock is seasonal, since it is next to the creek which feeds the reservoir and when the water level is high, major portions of the rock are submerged. Climbing here is best in the Fall before the rains begin.

This rock is characterized by its massive base, narrowing to a small flat area at the summit. A good rock for Advanced to Beginner. The notable climbs are:

Muddy Boots: An obvious narrow chute/crack which runs up the left side of the face. The most enjoyable route on the rock. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Bit Of Faith: A difficult climb to the right of Muddy Boots. It is long and exposed, and since it has no obvious routes the climb is characterized by the fact that each attempt

always seems different. Exposed. Advanced.

The Overhang Face: To the right of Bit Of Faith is a very difficult route which moves up a slanted overhang. Aid. Exposed. Advanced.

Make Up Your Mind: To the right and around the corner from The Overhang Face. Begins as a straight forward overhang. Then a left traverse which ends on a solid ledge. From there its friction up the small face to the summit. Exposed. Advanced.

Stanley's Route: Beginning around the corner and to the left of Muddy Boots is an eight foot face which gives way to a very enjoyable water chute. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Comments: This rock is well bolted at the top for anchoring. A walk-on is possible from the backside with some Beginner climbing. Some bouldering potential.

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-SANTA TERESA PARK-

This county park is located in the Foothills South of San Jose near IBM. From San Jose take 101 South, past IBM, to a Right on Bernal Road. Stay on Bernal Road past Santa Teresa Blvd. to the park entrance on the Left. Drive past the golf course and park at the large parking area next to the picnic grounds.

To reach both climbing areas begin the foot approach on the access road below the Water Tower on the hill. Once beyond the Water Tower, begin looking to your right and backward to locate the Lower Rock. If the access road becomes extremely steep, you have already passed Lower Rock.

LOWER ROCK

The Water Tower approach will bring you to the backside of the rock which has an easy walk-on. The rock has no anchors, so Upper Belays should be constructed carefully. The most notable climbs are:

Brian's Route: Facing the rock at its base, this is an obvious climb consisting of a water chute/crack which runs at an angle to the left and up. Exposed. Beginner.

Eric's Face: To the right of the beginning of Brian's Route is a fairly smooth face. This has a difficult Belay. If the rope is not running straight to the climber he may pendulum out and to the left. Exposed. Intermediate.

Jeff's Climb: To the left of Brian's Route is

a bulging face with loose rock at the bottom. Once begun, climb past the slab and on up to the top. Exposed. Intermediate.

Dad's Turn: To the left of Jeff's Climb and around the corner by the tree is an obvious crack and series of ledges which lead to the top. Good for opposition practice. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Pam's Retreat: To the left of Dad's Turn and is a route noted for the first few gymnastic type moves required to start it. Once begun, the route is an obvious series of steps leading up and under the tree branch to the top. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

UPPER CLIFFS

To reach the Upper Cliffs continue on the access road up the steep hill for about a half a mile to Laurel Springs Trail which branches to the right and downhill. This path leads to a wide tree-shaded clearing with some bouldering. For the Upper Cliffs, proceed straight across the clearing and up the hill, moving to the Left of a large boulder. This approach will bring you to the talus below the Upper Cliffs.

Because the hill is so steep and the talus so loose at this right side of the cliffs, you should move across the tree line to the extreme left edge of the Upper Cliffs and then proceed up to the climbs.

Facing the Upper Cliffs at their extreme left, and moving from left to right, the notable climbs are:

Fingers Crack: The first climb is on a rock shaded by some large trees. The crack leads up and around to a difficult overhang. Exposed. Advanced.

Lots of Holds: To the right of Fingers Crack is a wide climbing area of many routes. The climb ends in a gully which can be continued to the top of the rock. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Hap's Overhang: On the same rock and to the right of Lots of Holds this climb has an obvious route up the ridge to a difficult overhang. Exposed. Advanced.

Little Face: This climb is located to the right on a separate rock across a small gully from Hap's Overhang. It is a small face of many routes. Intermediate.

The Edge: Downward and to the right is a jutting spine creating a straight forward route with many resting places. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

Shady Side Face: Located around the corner and to the right of The Edge. This face climb consists of delicate holds which lead to the top. Advanced.

Sinister Hand: This separate rock to the Right of Shady Side Face is characterized by a large overhang at the top which looms over the entire climbing area. It can be climbed up the obvious crack, moving left and under the overhang. Beginner. The rock can also be approached straight up the spine, leading to an attempt at the overhang. Aid. Exposed. Advanced.

Note: To the right, past some bouldering rocks, are four jagged rocks which point off the hillside in a slanted direction. These rock formations are noted for the following climbs:

Wide Crack: Between the two jutting upper rocks is a crack system which moves to the

left and under the upper rock. It is possible to use body jamming techniques to emerge at the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Scary Crack: Located above and to the right of Wide Crack this route requires advanced hand jamming techniques. Exposed. Advanced.

The Finger: An extremely exposed pinnacle between the two cracks. Climbing up the spine of the rock is the standard approach. It can also be climbed from inside Scary Crack. At the summit, the climber will be sitting atop a delicate overhang of questionable strength. Exposed. Advanced.

The Knob: A short but difficult face climb is to the right of Scary Crack. This route goes to a ledge, past a knob, then on up to a mantle at the top. Exposed. Advanced.

No Holds Wall: The backside of The Knob, to the right reveals this difficult face. Aid. Exposed. Intermediate.

The Buttress: A large rock jutting out of the hillside to the right. Has no obvious routes, but plenty of bouldering. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Comments: Some of the rock in this area is rotten and flakey and all holds should be tested. Trees at the top of the cliffs provide good anchors for most belays.

-SUNOL VALLEY REGIONAL PARK-

An excellent climbing area on par with Castle Rock State Park located Northwest of San Jose near the Calaveras Reservoir in Alameda County.

There are two car approaches possible.

The most leisurely approach from San Jose is to take Freeway 17 North to State 237 (Milpitas exit). Drive through Milpitas, staying on State 237, which eventually becomes Calaveras Road as it winds up into the mountains. Drive past Ed Levin County Park and the Calaveras Reservoir to the Sunol Park entrance on the right. This route takes the longest, but is a very nice country drive over a winding road.

Quicker, but with more surface miles, is to take Freeway 17 North to State 680 (toward Pleasanton) to a Right on Calaveras Road where 680 meets State 84. Stay on Calaveras Road to the Park entrance on the left.

Once on the park access road, do not take the right fork, but drive through the gates to the Park Headquarters.

Sunol Park is noted for the magnificent cliffs jutting out from atop Flag Hill which dominates the entire valley. Climbing on Flag Hill is discouraged by the Rangers due to the unusual brittleness of the rock and because the cliffs provide bird nesting areas during the Spring. Excluding Flag Hill, there are two climbing areas in the park: Little Yosemite and Indian Joe Caves.

LITTLE YOSEMITE

From the Park Headquarters, drive left on the paved road which ends at the far end of the picnic grounds. Park by the locked access road.

Follow this access road for approximately one mile to a marker on the left which identifies Little Yosemite.

Little Yosemite has some good bouldering on water polished marble, but the area has no real climbs of challenge.

However, half way to Little Yosemite you will note some high steep faces next to the access road on the left. This climbing area was not researched, but appears to have some excellent routes for Advanced to Beginner.

INDIAN JOE CAVES

This is a fantastic climbing area for Advanced to Beginner. It offers challenges par to Castle Rock, yet is a different kind of climbing consisting of slabs and pinnacles. Much bouldering and climbs for the Beginner are available.

Park by the Red Barn near the Park Headquarters. Pass over the footbridge behind the Barn and follow Indian Joe Trail to the right. This trail will eventually branch away from the main trail, lead left and uphill. The trail generally follows the small Indian Joe Creek for one mile to the climbing area.

A couple of places on the trail may be confusing since the maps provided by the Rangers are inadequate. Beyond the man-made bench on your right is a trail which moves across the creek and up to the left. Do not take this trail but con-

tinue on, making your way past the fence. Another spot of confusion is the crossing of paths near the Indian Joe Caves. Continue straight up the hill and shortly you will see the rocks on the left through the trees at the top of the hill.

Where the path turns in toward the climbing area you will note a rather large face looming above the rest of the rocks and which has a large boulder atop it. This face is known as Little Eiger because of its subtle overhang. The Little Eiger is in the middle of the climbing area and is used as the main reference for the following climbs and routes:

The Sword: Moving along the path leading to the climbing area, this is the first rock you will approach. It is characterized by a sharp point which makes up part of a crack and also the roof of a cave. You can move under it and through the cave, or climb the crack. Beginner.

The Triangle: An obvious face climb which presents itself as you emerge from The Sword. It begins very wide and narrows to a point. No obvious route. Exposed. Intermediate to Beginner.

The Boulder Scramble: A jumble of boulders to the left of The Triangle which lead up to a flat rock under Little Eiger. This route gains access to the interior of the rocks, while bypassing The Triangle. Beginner.

Little Eiger: This is the dominant rock face from the path approach. It has a walk-on at its rear which is located by moving to the right of the face and scrambling up and around to the back. The rock is not bolted, but the boulder atop can be used as an anchor for a belay stance. The face is a subtle over-

hang, and has few holds. It does have a crack system which begins razor thin at the bottom and widens here and there as it moves up the face. Aid. Exposed. Advanced.

Blowhole: Move down into the cave/crack to the left and around the corner from Little Eiger for the starting position of the 50 foot chimney which exits out a hole at the top. This climb is formed by two separate rocks against each other, not in the usual chimney configuration but rounded like a blowhole. The rock against Little Eiger is the backside of Stark Rock (described below). The top of Stark Rock is bolted to provide a good belay stance for the Blowhole climb. To gain access to this bolt requires some Intermediate skills such as down-climbing from atop Little Eiger or by a couple of cracks up the face of Stark Rock. Exposed. Advanced.

No Holds: To locate this face climb, move away from Little Eiger about 20 feet on the flat rock. The edge of this rock is the upper belay stance for the climb below. Advanced to Intermediate.

Note: By moving left past Blowhole and around the corner, you will come to the area known as Three Rocks located to your right. This area is characterized by the three distinct rocks with their absence of easy ups.

The Squeeze: A short body jam and mantle required to gain access to the interior of Three Rocks. Obvious route. Intermediate to Beginner.

Sabastian Rock: The rock to your left, characterized by the wide jagged crack which moves randomly up the face. This crack can be started as a lieback, but towards the top, the crack narrows and it becomes a very difficult climb. This rock is bolted but has no easy access. Exposed. Advanced.

The Flange: A challenging climb up the jagged right edge of Sabastian Rock. Leads to the bolt at the top. Exposed. Advanced.

Boland Rock: The rock to the right and beyond Sabastian Rock with a very smooth face. Aid. Exposed. Advanced.

Stark Rock: Opposite Sabastian Rock this rock is against Little Eiger and creates Blowhole. The face is very difficult. Exposed. Advanced.

Small Crack: A short crack to the right of the face area, leading up the the bolt. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Large Crack: To the extreme left is a crack which is formed where Stark Rock meets Little Eiger. This route can be started as a lie-back, then toward the top the climber must move up the sharp ridge to the bolt. Exposed. Advanced.

Chockstone Crack: Located to the left of Large Crack and on the back of Little Eiger. The climb consists of a wide crack which has some lodged chockstones in it. It leads to the walk-on of Little Eiger. Beginner.

Little Book: A challenging book with a small but difficult overhang at the top is located to the left of Chockstone Crack. Intermediate to Beginner.

The Flake: Located to the right and around the corner of Boland Rock, consisting of a small flake which leads up to some holds on the main rock. Will end at the bolt. Exposed beyond the flake. Advanced to Intermediate.

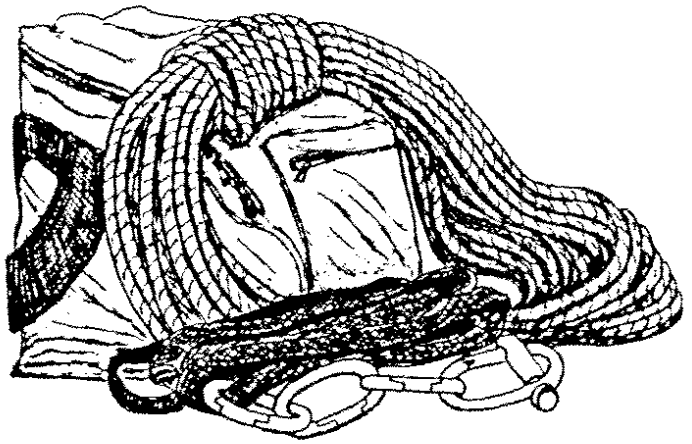
Looks Easy But Ain't: A face climb located to the right and around the corner from the Flake. This is the backside of Boland Rock. There is

no obvious route, but many good holds. If a route is started too far to the right you will end under an impossible overhang. Exposed. Advanced to Intermediate.

Flair-out Chimney: This chimney is located between Sabastian and Boland Rocks. It is an enjoyable chimney, yet toward the top it flairs wide open and gross horizontal body moves are required. Exposed. Advanced.

The Slide: Bypassing the Three Rocks area entirely and move to the right around and to the backside of Sabastian Rock. The climb begins quite easy, yet the subtle increase in angle (like a slide) makes it increasingly more difficult. It eventually leads to a hazardous overhang. Exposed. Advanced.

Comments: Indian Joe Caves is well worth the drive and hike. In addition to the obvious routes listed, the area has many more climbs for Advanced, Intermediate and Beginner. The bouldering potential seems unlimited.



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Magazines

Summit, P.O. Box 1889, Big Bear Lake, Ca. 92315.

Off Belay, 12416 - 169th Avenue S.E., Renton, Washington 98055

Climbing, P.O. Box E, Aspen, Colo. 81611

Instruction

The following organizations has occasional instructional service's for the Beginning Rock climber:

San Jose State University
Student Activities
San Jose, Ca. 95192

University of Santa Clara
Santa Clara, Ca. 95053

De Anza College
21250 Steven's Creek Blvd.
Cupertino, Ca. 95014

Stanford Alpine Club
Box 2645
Stanford University
Stanford, Ca. 94305

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5055 Santa Teresa Blvd.
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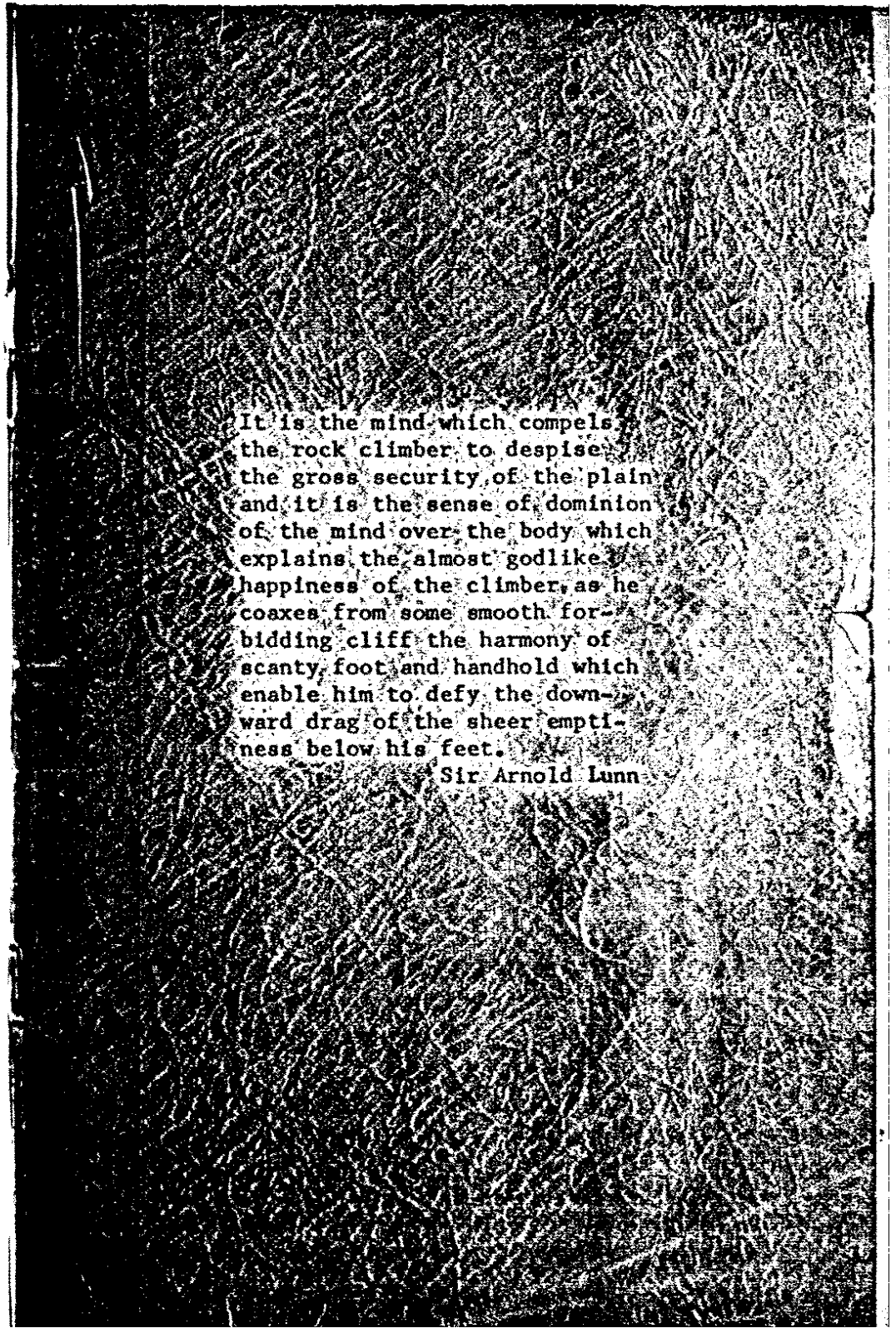

It is the mind which compels the rock climber to despise the gross security of the plain and it is the sense of dominion of the mind over the body which explains the almost godlike happiness of the climber as he coaxes from some smooth forbidding cliff the harmony of scanty foot and handhold which enable him to defy the downward drag of the sheer emptiness below his feet.

Sir Arnold Lunn